

Mint of the United States,

March 19, 1846.

Sir,

I have before me a letter from the Post Master at New Orleans, and another from the Post Master General, both addressed to you, and by you referred to me for my action. They have regard to the supply of the Post Office at New Orleans with copper coins from the Mint.

Mr. Penn has already procured cents from us, and is perfectly well aware of the course to be pursued. The only question, therefore, connected with his letter, that requires your notice, is the propriety of making a deposit of cents, at the New Orleans Mint, from which he can be supplied, from time to time, as the necessities of his Office may require.

On this proposition, I have to remark, that the experiment of a deposit of copper coins at New Orleans for distribution, was made by us in 1842, on the authority of the Department, and that it utterly failed. We sent only the amount of \$1500; and after two years and a half \$620 worth of these

these coins were returned to us, because they could not be disposed of. During all this time a part of our Treasurer's copper account was of course unsettled, much to the distress of this punctilious and cautious officer.

I cannot think that under these circumstances the proposed deposit is advisable. Mr. Penn can have any amount of copper coins that he may desire sent to him without charge for transportation, on his sending us a draft negotiable here at par for the sum wanted, and I think that this course ought to be satisfactory to him. If the Post Master General shall himself think it proper to order them, and will furnish the requisite funds, they will be sent without delay to New Orleans, or to any other point that he may indicate.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To,

Hon. R. I. Walker,

Secretary of the Treasury